

# THE BRUNEI TIMES

Thursday, November 12, 2009 Volume 3 No. 134

INCORPORATED IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

23 Zulkaedah 1430 \$0.80

2

Thursday, November 12, 2009

NEWS NATIONAL

THE BRUNEI TIMES

## Be parents and friends to students as well, teachers told

Rachel Thien  
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

TEACHERS must not only be dynamic and knowledgeable in the classroom but should also act as parents and friends who are approachable to their students.

This was said by Deputy Minister of Education Pg Dato Seri Setia Dr Hj Mohammad Pg Hj Abd Rahman during the closing of the three-day seminar and workshop in conjunction with Teachers' Day yesterday.

"No doubt, the role of teachers is paramount. Teachers have to show good examples outside the classroom all the time and they should have close cooperation among themselves for the well-being of their students, irrespective of their subjects and institutions," said the deputy minister.

"We (teachers) have an obligation to work hard and provide quality education to utilise the full potential of our students for the future of our nation," he added.

Due to current social, econ-



Deputy Minister of Education Pg Dato Dr Hj Mohammad (L) presenting a souvenir to an invited speaker during the closing ceremony of the seminar and workshop in conjunction with Teachers' Day at the ICC. Picture: BT/Rachel Thien

omic and technological challenges, not only in Brunei but also in the world, the deputy minister urged teachers to deliver more than just knowledge and skills to enable students to achieve academic excellence. In that regard, he said that the ministry has realised the need for character-

building among the nation's youths. "The ministry has set this as one of our main goals in the education system," he said.

Pg Dato Dr Hj Mohammad said that he was confident teachers will carry out their duties and responsibilities with utmost diligence and sincerity and added that although teach-

ing is a challenging profession, it is also a noble one.

Deputy Permanent Secretary of Higher Education Hj Suhaila Hj Abdul Karim said that he hoped the seminar and workshop was "significant enough" for teachers and that they would take away some ideas from it as "added value" to programmes they are currently conducting in their classrooms.

In his speech, he said: "I am delighted to learn that the workshop sessions to some extent have managed to bring about hands-on activities and active interaction among you (teachers) and your speakers or facilitators."

He added that the ministry will "certainly reflect back" on the event and try to learn anything that would enhance the organisation of similar functions in the future.

The event, held at the International Convention Centre, concluded with a presentation of certificates and souvenirs by the deputy minister to invited foreign speakers as well as officials from the ministry.

The Brunei Times

## Call for more workshops on ICT

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

EDUCATORS have called for more seminars and workshops to be organised with emphasis on incorporating information and communication technology (ICT) into the education system to help teachers to upgrade their knowledge and skills.

Secondary school teacher Evelin Khadeeja Iman from Sultan Sharif Ali Secondary School told *The Brunei Times* that she found the seminar and workshop in conjunction with this year's Teachers' Day "relevant".

"We were taught how to integrate ICT into lessons and the workshop was not bad because I learnt some tools to aid me in teaching that I did not know of before," she said.

She added that having seminars and workshops could help teachers improve their quality of teaching because "every

teacher needs to have standards".

Instructor Diana Abdeenah Mail from Wasan Vocational School said that the seminar and workshop helped her keep up with the pace of technology and that she has now learnt how to make her lessons more interesting and interactive.

"This event has taught us teachers to take our own initiative, such as searching for new software as ICT tools to help our students learn more interactively," she said, adding that the workshop was "great" as it trained her to improve her teaching methods.

She was also of the opinion that seminars, workshops and conferences should be organised more often to keep teachers updated with the necessary skills and knowledge in today's ICT world.

Another teacher, Jessie Chiew from Panaga School in Seriu said the seminars and workshops

helped her to conduct more "hands-on activities" for her students.

"Now we teachers will be able to conduct less chalk and talk as we will be encouraging our students to do more research and independent work," she said.

She agreed that these activities for teachers should be carried out more often. "I feel that I am a good teacher but there is always room for improvement, to learn and reach high quality teaching standards."

Islamic Religious Knowledge teacher Hj Mukti Hj Mohd from Nakhoda Ragam Vocational School echoed the same sentiments. "I learnt a lot about using ICT as a tool to educate my students. Now I will not spoon-feed my students anymore," he said. He added that although he previously used some ICT tools in class, "InshaAllah, I will fully start to use ICT now as it is really beneficial." **The Brunei Times**